

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: MPOL, NATO
SUBJECT: COUNCIL OPERATIONS AND EXERCISE COMMITTEE
(COEC) - MEETING ON FEB 28, 1978

REFS: (A) USNATO 1387 DTG 101558Z FEB 78,
(B) STATE 049448 DTG 250125Z FEB 78,
(C) USNATO 1706 DTG 181417Z FEB 78.

SUMMARY: AT ITS FEB 28 MEETING, THE COEC APPROVED
AC/237-WP/127 (CRISIS MANAGEMENT MANUAL - VOL II) AND
DISCUSSED PREPARATIONS FOR HILEX-8 AND WINTEX/CIMEX 79.
ACTION REQUESTED: SEE PARA 2B. END SUMMARY.

1. AGENDA ITEM I (DRAFT CRISIS MANAGEMENT MANUAL, VOL II,
PART III): AC 237/WP-127 APPROVED WITH MINOR EDITORIAL
CHANGES AND ADDITIONS.

2. AGENDA ITEM II (WINTEX/CIMEX 79):
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A. ACTING CHAIRMAN (MORAN) NOTED THAT AC/237-WP/124(REV),
ENTITLED "SUPPLEMENT TO EXERCISE SPECIFICATIONS FOR
WINTEX/CIMEX 79: PARTICIPATION BY THE DEFENSE PLANNING
COMMITTEE AND SUBORDINATE BODIES", HAD BEEN CIRCULATED TO
COEC MEMBERS ON FEB 20, 1978 (USNATO POUCHED COPIES TO
WASHINGTON ON FEB 21). HE SAID THAT HE HOPED THE REVISED

WINTEX/CIMEX 79 EXERCISE SPECIFICATION WOULD BE DISTRIBUTED SHORTLY. IF SO, HE PROPOSED THAT THE COEC CONDUCT A PRELIMINARY DISCUSSION OF THESE TWO DOCUMENTS AT ITS FIRST MEETING FOLLOWING HILEX-8.

B. THE ACTING CHAIRMAN ALSO NOTED THAT AC/237-N-151, ENTITLED "WINTEX/CIMEX 79 PLANNING" HAD BEEN CIRCULATED TO COEC MEMBERS ON FEB 23 (COPIES POUCHED TO WASHINGTON ON FEB 27) AND WOULD FORM THE BASIS FOR COEC DISCUSSION OF DEVELOPMENT OF ADDITIONAL POLITICAL AND CIVIL INCIDENTS. THE NETHERLANDS REP (HOFMAN) SUGGESTED THAT THE PREPARATION AND APPROVAL OF SUCH ADDITIONAL MATERIAL WOULD BE BETTER ENTRUSTED TO THE HIGH-LEVEL EXERCISE PLANNING GROUP (HLEPG). THE POLITICAL DIRECTORATE REP (VURAL) SUPPORTED THIS SUGGESTION. THE CHAIRMAN AGREED THAT THE HLEPG WAS A FEASIBLE ALTERNATIVE AND ASKED DELEGATIONS TO SEEK GUIDANCE AS TO NATIONAL PREFERENCES. COMMENT: USNATO OFFICERS NORMALLY REPRESENT WASHINGTON ON THE HLEPG. THEREFORE, FOR THE US, THIS PROPOSAL REPRESENTS ONLY A CHOICE OF FORA. HOWEVER, AS IT HAS BEEN OUR EXPERIENCE THAT THE HLEPG REQUIRES LESS TIME TO COVER THE SAME GROUND, WE RECOMMEND WASHINGTON AUTHORIZE US TO SUPPORT THE NETHERLANDS PROPOSAL. END COMMENT. ACTION REQUESTED: WASHINGTON GUIDANCE.

3. AGENDA ITEM III (HILEX-8): THE CHAIRMAN RAISED THE UNCLASSIFIED

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ISSUE OF PRESS PLAY FOR HILEX-8. HOWEVER, NO REPS HAD YET RECEIVED GUIDANCE ON MSS/78/9 (SEE REF C). IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION BY US REP (ROBERTS), THE CHAIRMAN SAID THAT THE PREFERRED METHOD OF DISTRIBUTING SIMULATED NATIONAL PRESS STATEMENTS (SEE PARA 4 OF MSS/78/9) WOULD BE BY NATO-WIDE MESSAGE FROM CAPITALS.

4. AGENDA ITEM IV (ANALYSIS OF INFORMATION FLOW DURING HILEX-8): ALL DELEGATIONS AGREED TO ASSIST IN AN ANALYSIS OF THE INTERNAL FLOW OF INFORMATION AT NATO HQS DURING HILEX-8. GLITMAN

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